

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235249

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 235249. ACTION TAIPEI INFO PEKING HONG
KONG 22 SEP.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON ROC NUCLEAR
ACTIVITIES

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL AND ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE
TESTIFIED SEPTEMBER 22 IN OPEN SESSION ON THE ROC'S
NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES BEFORE SENATOR SYMINGTON'S SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ARMS CONTROL. CIA DIRECTOR BUSH PRECEDED THEM IN
EXECUTIVE SESSION. BOTH IKLE AND HUMMEL EMPHASIZED THE
US COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION, THE STEPS WE HAD
TAKEN TO PREVENT TAIWAN FROM ACQUIRING A REPROCESSING
FACILITY AND THE FORTHCOMING WRITTEN RESPONSE WE RECEIVED
FROM THE ROC THAT IT WOULD NEITHER MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS NOR ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REPROCESSING.
(HUMMEL'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.)

2. THE QUESTIONING BY SENATORS SYMINGTON AND CASE WAS
PROBING THOUGH GENERALLY NONANTAGONISTIC. IT FOCUSED ON
THE VALIDITY OF RECENT PRESS STORIES ABOUT TAIWAN'S
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EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY AND THE

NATURE OF OUR NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH TAIWAN. BOTH WITNESSES STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ROC ACQUIRING A REPROCESSING FACILITY, THAT ROC ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR NON-PROLIFERATION AND REGIONAL INTERESTS AND THAT THE US HAD CLEARLY WARNED THE ROC THAT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WOULD RESULT FROM VIOLATIONS OF ITS NON-PROLIFERATION ASSURANCES.

3. THE SENATORS SEEMED GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH OUR HANDLING OF THE ROC PROBLEM, THOUGH THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE GENERAL ISSUES OF NON-PROLIFERATION. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THEIR ATTITUDE, SENATOR CASE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE HEARING COMMENTED THAT "WE'VE RIDDEN THE ROC QUITE HARD ON THIS ONE."

4. THE ROC'S SEPTEMBER 17 WRITTEN ASSURANCES PROBABLY HAD AN IMPORTANT IMPACT IN DEFUSING THE ISSUE AT THE HEARINGS. WE DID NOT PROVIDE TEXT OF ROC NOTE, ALTHOUGH HUMMEL QUOTED OPERATIVE SECTION IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR SHEN FORWARDED TEXT TO SYMINGTON IN LETTER ON EVE OF HEARING. HABIB UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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